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Cybersecurity Officers and the Social Sciences

All careers incorporate the social sciences in some way, and cybersecurity is not exempt from that. There are many careers that fall under cybersecurity; the career I chose was a Cyber Security officer and I am using the CIA, the NSA, as well as Job Description and Resume Examples to guide my analysis of what it means to be a cybersecurity officer and how social science principles are implemented in this role.

Cybersecurity officers “provide services, such as monitoring to property owners in a bid to provide safe surroundings and prevent violence on their property” (JD&RE, 2023). This is a job that, depending on the company, carries an immense weight that requires multiple people to surveil the protected data. Depending on the company, the assets that would be under surveillance range from monitoring suspicious activity in physical environments to monitoring digital environments with sensitive data.

With the CIA, it is added that you need to be able to identify current and future threats where a broad range of skills are needed which include communication. In advanced leadership roles, where supervising and managing employees becomes part of the task (Central Intelligence Agency, n.d.). In fact, it is a prerequisite to have good interpersonal communication skills in entry-level positions (JD&RE, 2023). In the NSA, the description involves working with a team who are “driven to remain in the forefront of their field” (National Security Agency, n.d.).

For cybersecurity officers, being able to communicate is mandatory. This relates to the social sciences, specifically psychology and sociology, because this is based on interpersonal interaction. The psychology aspect of being a cybersecurity officer is understanding both the behavior of the people you’re working with so the group would be able to function appropriately, and understanding the behavior of the people you’re investigating. Being able to understand

how to interact with people of different personality types is a major aspect of working with a diverse group of people, but it also is an integral part to any job where apprehending people may be necessary.

Criminology is a major part of cybersecurity, and as a cybersecurity officer, there would be a cross with the criminal justice system. Cybersecurity officers need to be able to understand what aspects of crime could cross over into cyberspace, as well as what aspects of physical crime that would also need to be detected. Cybersecurity officers would also work with the criminal justice system for when they apprehend criminals. When it comes to sociology and psychology, there is always the risk of generalization. This would mean that groups of people would be subject to suspicion when a crime does occur, even if they have nothing to do with it.

The sociology aspect of being a cybersecurity officer is understanding the social implications of actions from the criminal justice system. Cybersecurity officers work hand-in-hand with the criminal justice system as they are guarding secure physical and digital locations. Sociology is about studying human interactions and the processes that change societies. A part of monitoring physical and digital locations is studying how people who may frequent, or are new, to the area are interacting with each other. Their actions may give away their intentions which, if found in time, can prevent a crime from happening.

There is also a political science aspect of being a cybersecurity officer, especially for organizations like the CIA and the NSA. Political science relates back to connections to human affairs. This could mean new legislation being passed in response to new technology, or more specifically, in relation to how people use technology. When this legislation is passed, it would be the job of cybersecurity officers to ensure that people are following those laws and aren't using technology in a way that would negatively impact masses of people. The problems with political science being ingrained in cybersecurity is political corruption and politicians possibly not knowing what they're creating legislation on, but still forcing the policies through. Political corruption is always a problem, and with democracies it's easier to say that politicians are

elected from the will of the people, but when politicians start making legislation to push corrupted agendas, government agencies have to follow those laws. It is a lot more likely that when politicians make legislation in relation to technology, that they may not understand what they are making laws about. This creates rules that may negatively impact society, that government institutions have to uphold.

Cybersecurity officers are connected to society because of the social science aspects of the job. These interpersonal aspects of the job are the reason why cybersecurity professionals have to be able to communicate properly with the people they are working with, the people they are working against, the systems that bring criminals to justice, and the system that makes the regulations for them to uphold. This relates to society because the way cybersecurity officers operate will affect the general public. When working with the criminal justice system, the way cybersecurity officers operate not only upholds the law that is set by the government, but it also sets a precedent of what to expect in the future when those crimes are committed.

References

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